

# Seaing is Believing

## An essay and visual arts contest to encourage ocean literacy

What stories can a sunken slave ship tell?

The Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary and Savannah State University will ask area students to explore this question through essay and visual arts contests as part of the 2005 Ocean Film Festival September 23-25 and "Seaing is Believing," new educational complement to this year's festival. This partnership is supported by a grant from the City of Savannah through the Weave a Dream program, offered by the Department of Cultural Affairs.

The visual arts competition is open to elementary students K-5. The essay contest is open to any public or private school student in grades 6-12. Students in either contest may submit an entry that explores one of four topics: Ocean Exploration, African Americans and the Sea, Coastal Issues, or Marine Protected Areas. All entries must be received by September 10, 2005. Winners will be announced during the festival events and will receive prizes for their work. Selected essays will be posted on the Savannah State University website. Visual arts submissions will be hung in academic buildings on the SSU campus.

"Many times people don't see the many different issues that surround ocean studies and exploration," says program coordinator Dionne Hoskins. "Through this activity we hope to engage people of all ages in the scientific, political, and cultural discussions that arise when we study the sea."

The program is offered in conjunction with the screening of the "The Guerrero Project," a documentary about the Guerrero, a slave ship which was sunk off the Florida coast in 1827 by a British warship.



*Slave ship Guerrero Capt. Jose Gomez prepares to hijack the wrecking ship that rescued him and his crew. Illustration by Sam Turner. Contact: Karuna Eberl, 301.808.5858 or Chris Moore 818.957.5779*

The film will be shown at 7pm in the Lucas Theater on September 25. A panel discussion on the content and the making of the film will be held September 26 at 12:30pm in the Jordan Auditorium at Savannah State University. Admission is free for all events. The panel will include film's director, Ms. Karuna Eberl; Guerrero historian Gail Swanson; Gene Tinnie, Co-Director of Dos Amigos/Fair Rosamond Middle Passage Ship Replica Project; Ken Stewart of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers; and Florida treasure hunter Captain Carl Fismer.

Organizers of the both the 2005 Savannah Ocean Film Festival and the Seaing is Believing program hope to increase awareness in scientific and cultural issues related to the ocean sciences and help local students develop their communication skills and an deeper understanding of science.

For information call Dr. Hoskins at 912.352.8925, email [dionne.hoskins@noaa.gov](mailto:dionne.hoskins@noaa.gov) or visit <http://www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov> or [www.savstate.edu](http://www.savstate.edu)

Seaing is Believing  
Essay and Visual Arts Contest

Title of Submission \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Type of School \_\_\_\_\_  
(public, private, parochial)

School Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Guidelines**

1. Eligibility: The essay contest is open to all Savannah- Chatham County students in middle and high school. The visual arts contest is open to Savannah- Chatham County students in elementary grades. Submissions will be judged in these categories: middle school, high school, Kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. This form must accompany any submission.
3. Artwork may not exceed 8.5 by 11 inches in size. Acceptable media are paint, chalk, pen, pencil, markers, crayon, and collage. All artwork must contain the student's name, grade, and school on the back. Artwork should focus on one of the four themes: African Americans and the Sea, Ocean Exploration, Coastal Issues, or Marine Protected Areas.
4. Essays must be original manuscripts written exclusively for the Seaing is Believing program. Essays should consist of 1000-1500 words and focus on one of four themes: African Americans and the Sea, Ocean Exploration, Coastal Issues, or Marine Protected Areas. Reference material must be properly cited. References are not included in the word limit.
5. Submissions become property of the Savannah State University Marine Science Program. Through the submission of an essay or artwork contestants and their legal guardians grant Savannah State University non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted.
6. All entries must be received electronically, faxed, or postmarked by September 10, 2005. Send submissions to Seaing is Believing, c/o Dr. Dionne Hoskins, Box 20228 SSU, Savannah, Georgia, 31404, fax to 912.352.8925 or email [hoskins@savstate.edu](mailto:hoskins@savstate.edu). Winning entries will need to be resubmitted in electronic form if they are submitted via fax or traditional mail.
7. Attendance to films in the 2005 Gray's Reef Ocean Film Festival is strongly encouraged but not required for entry into the contest.

For information call 912.352.892  
or visit <http://www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov>  
or [www.savstate.edu](http://www.savstate.edu)

"Seaing is Believing" is an educational program sponsored by the Weave A Dream Program of the City of Savannah Department of Cultural Affairs, NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Ocean Film Festival, and Savannah State University.

